

VZCZXYZ0001
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHFR #0735/01 1081641
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 171641Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2646
INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFSS/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFSS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T PARIS 000735

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PLS PASS ISN, INR, EUR, AND EAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/16/2033

TAGS: **PARM PREL CBW ETTC AS FR**

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA GROUP: 2008 INFORMATION EXCHANGE (IE)

Classified By: ESTH/NP COUNSELOR ROBERT W. DRY FOR REASONS 1.4 (B), (C) , (D), (E) AND (H)

----- SUMMARY -----

1. (S) The following describes highlights of the Information Exchange (IE) portion of the annual meeting of the Australia Group (AG), which me

----- INTRODUCTION -----

2. (S) The Chairman opened the Information Exchange Session with a review of past IE efforts and thanked the membership, especially the small

----- TRENDS IN CBW PROLIFERATION -----

3. (S) The US gave a presentation on CBW proliferation networks. After the presentation, New Zealand expressed concern about the growing use c

4. (S) The US gave a presentation on Iran's indigenous BW-applicable production equipment manufacturing capabilities.

5. (S) The Netherlands gave a presentation on potential limitations to Iran's indigenous production capability for potential CW precursors and

6. (S) Australia thanked the Netherlands for its presentation and noted that it had performed a study of Iraqi phosphorus supplies in the past

7. (C) Germany presented on suppliers of dual-use equipment to Iran. Germany assesses that Iran's main suppliers of dual-use equipment are Rus

8. (S) The US gave a presentation on CW-applicable transfers from Chinese firms to Iran.

9. (S) Australia continues to be concerned about the presence of an offensive CW program in Syria. Australia assesses that Syrian procurement

10. (S) The US presented on Syrian CW-related procurement.

11. (S) The US presented on transfers of CW-related material between Iran and Syria.

12. (S) The Netherlands gave an update on monoethylene glycol laboratory studies related to Syrian procurement. Laboratory experiments demonst

13. (SBU) The Chairman noted that France had prepared a paper on cooperation between Russia and Syria on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

14. (C) Germany presented on Syria CBW-relevant cooperation. Germany noted that Syria's chemical industry was dependent on imports, and that mos

A 2007 newspaper article in Al-Sharg Al-Awsat described Ahmadinejad's visit to Syria, which reportedly resulted in a 1 billion USD agreement wh

15. (SBU) Spain presented on an export attempt to Lebanon. The Spanish presentation addressed a case investigated by the Spanish National Inte

16. (SBU) Italy presented on the status of CW-related compliance efforts in Libya. A transcript of Italian comments will be available on Intel

17. (SBU) France presented a case study on Pakistani chemical procurement efforts from China. In June 2007, the Pakistani company Metal Works

18. (S) Canada presented on export controls in India. Canada assessed that India may be softening its export control commitments. Canada noted

19. (S) The US presented on the worldwide growth of the specialty chemical industry.

20. (SBU) Canada commented that it was particularly interested in member views on how to control the transfer of specialty chemicals, specific

21. (SBU) Sweden presented on the electrochemical production of export-controlled precursors. Without procuring controlled precursors, white p

22. (SBU) Australia presented on synthetic biology and its various BW-relevant applications. The Australians noted that the global oligo marke

23. (SBU) Norway presented a research study on aerosol generation using commercially available sprayers. The project focused on simple deliver

----- INTANGIBLE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS -----

24. (SBU) The United Kingdom presented on its Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). Beginning in 1994, the UK implemented a voluntary ve

25. (SBU) Australia asked what procedures the UK had if students switched subjects to a scientific and technical field after entering the cour

26. (SBU) France asked the UK if intelligence services had access to the ATAS system. The UK responded that they consult the intelligence serv

27. (U) The US presented on the visa review program.

28. (SBU) The Netherlands asked the US and the UK how they determine which subject areas are WMD-relevant, and how they account for the fact t

29. (SBU) Cyprus asked if the US visa review policy considered the national origin of the applicant when conducting reviews. Cyprus noted that

30. (SBU) Germany asked the UK how it completed the ATAS process within 10 working days. The UK responded by noting that many of their applica

31. (SBU) New Zealand commented that it has been targeted by students of countries of concern, particularly Pakistan, for educational developm

32. (SBU) Japan asked for information concerning any notable applications from students originating in North Korea. 33. (SBU) Canada noted tha

----- DENIALS -----

34. (SBU) Australia presented on AG denial trends from 2002 until the present. Iran constituted 26-30% of the denials, double the number of th

----- TERRORISM AND NON-STATE ISSUES -----

36. (U) The US gave a presentation on worldwide trends in CBW terrorism.

37. (S) France presented on the use of induced encephalomyelitis as a potential assassination weapon. France noted that there were three forms (Comment: The US delegation requested but did not receive a transcript of this presentation. Due to difficulties understanding the presenter,s

38. (SBU) Canada presented on the likelihood of terrorist use of CBW. Canada assesses that a terrorist group could produce and use a workable

----- WORLD TRENDS IN PROLIFERATION SECURITY -----

40. (S) Australia presented on Southeast Asia and chemical and biological security. Australia assessed that no state in Southeast Asia was cur

41. (S) The US gave a presentation on worldwide procurement trends for biosafety level (BSL) 3 and 4 laboratories.

42. (SBU) Canada presented on its threat reduction global partnership program (GPP). Canada stressed its engagement efforts with the Kyrgyz Re

43. (SBU) New Zealand noted that Indonesia) a disparate country of many islands) has poor biosecurity due to incompetence, as a systemic prc

¶44. (S) The UK highlighted its concerns with potential Russian membership in the AG and noted that it had provided information on CBW-related
¶45. (S) The US presented its view on potential Russian CW and BW activities.

----- LOOKING AHEAD -----

¶46. (SBU) The Chair of the IE sought ideas for the 2009 IE. The Chair also sought member states, feedback on their satisfaction on the current
¶47. (U) For additional information on the 2008 AG information exchange or copies of presentations, where available, contact Zachary Bernstein,
STAPLETON